

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROYAL VISIT TO GALICIA

1. KING JUAN CARLOS ARRIVED IN GALICIA--THE FOURTH
MAJOR REGION TO BE VISITED SINCE BECOMING KING-- JULY 24
FOR WEEK-LONG VISIT. HIGHLIGHT OF FIRST DAYS OF THE
VISIT WAS KING'S SYMBOLIC OFFERING AT THE NATIONAL
SHRINE OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA JULY 25. VISIT WAS
PRECEDED JULY 23 BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
WHICH CONCLUDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT KING WOULD
CHAIR A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JULY 30 WHEN
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THE GOVT WOULD PRESENT ITS PROPOSAL FOR A POLITICAL AMNESTY

FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT GALICIAN CITIES AND TOWNS AND IN FACTORIES WHERE WORKERS HAVE PRESENTED PETITIONS WITH THEIR CONCERNS, THOUGH THE FIRST DAY AT SANTIAGO WAS SOMEWHAT MARRED BY DEMONSTRATIONS, SOMETHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN REPEATED.

2. THE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA CEREMONY, IN WHICH KING WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE MINISTERS, WAS NATIONALLY TELE- VISED TOGETHER WITH THE PRETAPED SPECIAL MESSAGE OF POPE PAUL VI ON THE HOLY YEAR OBSERVANCE OF SPANISH NATIONAL SAINT. IN HIS PRAYER, JUAN CARLOS PLEDGED HIMSELF TO REIGN WITH JUSTICE, AND TO WORK FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN LIBERTY, ORDER, TOLERANCE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND A STRENGTHENING OF A SECURE AND EFFICIENT STATE, BUT SAID NOTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT AMNESTY. THE ARCHBISHOP, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID THAT THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR AN "AUTHENTIC AND FULL RECONCILIATION OF ALL SPANIARDS"-- "SHOULD BE A BROAD AND/OR GENEROUS AMNESTY AS POSSIBLE."

3. THE KING'S RECEPTION HAS GENERALLY BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC, JUDGING BY THE HUGE CROWDS WHICH FILLED PUBLIC SQUARES AND THE STREETS IN SANTIAGO, PONTEVEDRA, VIGO, AND ORENSE. IN HIS BRIEF STATEMENTS AT VARIOUS STOPS THE KING HAS PLEDGED HIMSELF TO WORK FOR THE REGION'S DEVELOPMENT AND CREATE THE CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW EMIGRATED GALICIANS TO RETURN TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY (GALICIA HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE REGION WITH THE HIGHEST QUOTA OF EMIGRANTS). THE KING EXPRESSED PART OF HIS STATEMENT IN SANTIAGO JULY 25 IN THE "GALLEGO" VERNACULAR.

4. SEVERAL HUNDRED DEMONSTRATORS CREATED A MINOR CONTRETEMPS JULY 25 IN SANTIAGO DEMANDING "A FREE GALICIA, NO EMIGRATION, AND A GENERAL AMNESTY." THE POLICE USED TRUNCHEONS, A NUMBER WERE TEMPORARILY ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. NO DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE. THE KING ADROITLY HANDLED PETITIONS PRESENTED BY WORKERS AT TWO FACTORIES WHICH HE VISITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN VIGO (CITROEN) AND PONTEVEDRA (BARREIROS--ASSOCIATED WITH CHRYSLER). THE KING FIRST WAS FACED WITH THIS TYPE OF PETITION DURING HIS VISIT IN JUNE TO ASTURIAS AND NOW SEEMS ACCUSTOMED TO THEM. IN RIBADAVIA THE KING WAS FACED WITH A NUMBER OF BANNERS HELD ALOFT BY MEMBERS OF "PEASANTS COMMISSIONS", THE RURAL COUNTERPART OF THE PCE-DOMINATED "WORKERS COMMISSION", BUT IT WAS A MINOR THING.

5. IN A WIDELY PUBLICIZED GESTURE THE ROYAL FAMILY PAID
A BRIEF VISIT TO FRANCO'S WIDOW.

6. COMMENT: JUAN CARLOS AGAIN EXPLOITS A VISIT TO THE
PROVINCES TO BUILD UP PERSONAL POPULARITY. FOLLOWING AN
EARLIER VISIT TO ANDALUCIA THE GOVT ADOPTED SOME MEASURES
TO AMELIORATE LOCAL PROBLEMS AND WILL LIKELY TAKE COMPARABLE
MEASURES IN GALICIA. THE KING AND THE GOS DID LOSE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THE POLITICAL AMNESTY DURING THE
SANTIAGO CEREMONIES, BUT IF THE GENEROUS AMNESTY THAT
OBSERVERS ARE NOW PROJECTING IS PROMULGATED AFTER FRIDAY'S
CABINET MEETING, THEN THE DELAY WILL BE FORGOTTEN.
WHATQAS DELAYED MATTERS WAS THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE AMNESTY'S
SCOPE TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY REMIANING POLITICAL PRISONERS
(APPROXIMATELY 300) BUT ALSO PERSONS AFFECTED BY DECISIONS OF
COURTS AND PERHAPS EVEN MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR EARLIER POLITICAL
ACTS DEPRIVING THEM OF STATUS AS CIVIL SERVANTS, EDUCATORS,
ETC. IN THIS THE GOVT HAS BEEN RECEPTIVE
TO REQUESTS MADE BY THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION.
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